

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes

July 18, 2014

Channel Islands Boating Center
3880 Bluefin Circle · Oxnard, CA

Note: After council approval, this document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, fifteen of the council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Six seats were absent for the day: Commercial Fishing, Recreational Fishing, NOAA Fisheries, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Coastal Commission, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied throughout the day, averaging four people.

Administrative Business and Announcements:

The draft key outcomes from the May 16, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as final.

Dianne Black announced the following appointments and reappointments to the Sanctuary Advisory Council: Amanda Allen (Education Seat – member), Cliff Rodrigues (Education Seat – alternate), Luhui Isha Ward (Chumash Community Seat – member), Mati Waiya (Chumash Community Seat – alternate), Victor Cox (Public-at-Large Seat – alternate), Richard Block (Public-at-Large Seat – alternate), Andrea Mills (Tourism Seat – member), Garrett Kababik (Tourism Seat – alternate), Capt. David Bacon (Recreational Fishing Seat – member), and Merit McCrea (Recreational Fishing Seat – alternate). She also announced that CDR Casey Hehr will be the new U.S. Coast Guard's seat member, and LT CDR Joseph Giammanco will be its new alternate seat.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley announced a new campaign to enhance sustainable tourism within the sanctuary, titled the "Get Into Your Sanctuary Day" that will take place on August 2nd. The goal of this project is to promote sanctuaries as a tourist destination, as well as to have participants post via social media with the hashtag #visitsanctuaries to encourage people to visit their local national marine sanctuaries. Chris welcomed Chris Caldwell as the new CINMS Research Coordinator who will begin the following week. Chris shared information about the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) that Todd Jacobs has been working on that will test how this technology can be applied to oceanographic and biological research within the sanctuary network. Lastly, Chris explained that the *R/V Shearwater* recently completed a trip from June 16th-20th to measure ocean acidification and its effects on ocean biology within CINMS and the Santa Barbara Channel.

Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

Ventura County Tourism Panel Discussion: The role of the Channel Islands and sanctuary in marketing to local visitors

Sanctuary Advisory Council tourism seat member Michael Cohen acted as a session moderator for the tourism panel discussion. Susan Smith, CEO of the Oxnard Convention & Visitors Bureau, shared that within the Central Coast region, from Monterey to Ventura, tourism generated \$6.8 billion within local economies in 2012, supported 73,000 jobs, and produced almost \$5 million in local tax revenue. Susan said sanctuary staff should take a proactive approach to promote sustainable growth of the tourism industry that utilizes the sanctuary and Channel Islands. Susan said there is no membership fee for the Oxnard Convention & Visitors Bureau website

and she will post sanctuary-related information on both the visitor's website and their social media accounts if sanctuary staff emails it to her.

Steven Buenger, Executive Board Member and Vice Chair of the Oxnard Convention & Visitors Bureau and Executive Committee member of Friends of Channel Islands Harbor Association, said that in response to a reduction in tourism after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a "Go Coastal" campaign was created and contributed to a 23% increase in Oxnard tourism in 2002. Steven used this as an example of advertisement campaigns that could potentially be applied to the Channel Islands.

Michele Gilmour, Visitor Services Manager for the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, said she participates in trade shows such as the LA Travel and Adventure Trade Show, the San Diego Travel and Adventure Trade Show, and the Sunset Magazine Celebration Trade Show. Michele said now is the perfect time for the sanctuary to participate in such trade shows, and recommended having a table with CINMS staff distributing information and answering public questions. Michele also added that she would be willing to include sanctuary information in her monthly reports, handouts, and visitor's guides.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Report and Proposed Action

CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council chair Dianne Black discussed this year's Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit meeting in Galveston, TX and said there was a main focus on recreation, travel, and tourism, as well as some discussion of the Business Advisory Council. Dianne said that during discussions about creating new sanctuaries there was concern over where resources would come from, and it was agreed that ONMS personnel will have to be innovative in order to create funding to support new sanctuaries. Dianne mentioned that ONMS director Dan Basta wants at least two SAC members to attend the National Business Advisory council meeting in September. Chris Mobley clarified that the National Business Advisory Council is essentially aiming to get corporations to provide business advice to the ONMS.

Dianne said that the most significant part of the summit was the joint meeting about the Marine Protected Area Call to Action. Dianne said the audience for this call to action is the Sanctuary Advisory Council members, and that the CINMS SAC vote is to support her signing the Call to Action to endorse it. Chris Mobley clarified that the vote is not for individual SAC members to endorse it; rather, the vote is only on whether to support Dianne signing it or not.

Kip Louttit said he is concerned that if more people are brought into the area, there could be a question of where funding will come from if more park rangers are needed. Dianne said the majority of the summit's MPA Call to Action meeting was about trying to leverage resources and find different avenues for funding. Greg Helms said he had concerns with the use of language and the term "MPA" being used to reference entire sanctuaries, and asked if this could cause future dilution with public understanding of the sanctuary.

Phyllis Grifman motioned to vote supporting Dianne Black to sign the MPA Call to Action, Michael Cohen seconded the motion, and the Council unanimously voted in favor of supporting Dianne Black to sign the MPA Call to Action.

Vessel Assistance and Groundings

Capt. Paul Amaral of Vessel Assist in Ventura, CA discussed his private company's role preventing and mitigating vessel groundings within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary while presenting at the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council. Vessel Assist works alongside the National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and local harbor patrols to assist vessels that have broken down, caught fire, grounded on rocks, or had any other type of incident between Point Dume to Point Conception, and from San Nicholas Island to San Miguel Island. He showed a series of photographs depicting situations where boats were flooded, sunken, or

grounded on the shoreline, and described the methods Vessel Assist uses to safely remove and return such vessels to the mainland.

Phyllis Grifman said that many of the accidents are probably associated with boater education, and asked if Paul's company has any education focus. Paul said that he and his crew actively promote education and safety within the harbor, and he has pushed for additional boating safety laws to be passed. Paul also said that issues arise when boaters do not have insurance, and he believes all boat owners should have insurance, similar to car owners. Paul said that some boat operators have a false sense of confidence with new technologies and sometimes go out into the channel unaware of dangerous conditions.

Shipping and Whales

Justin Viezbicke was not able to attend the SAC meeting and Sean Herron from CINMS discussed the whale entanglement reports in Justin's place. He explained that an entangled humpback whale in May was spotted near Monterey Bay and a GPS tracking device was attached to the entangled fishing gear in order to track the animal; rough sea conditions had prevented immediate assistance to the animal. The whale swam down to the Channel Islands, and a National Marine Fisheries Service team mobilized to disentangle the whale. The team removed all of the gear, including sections that were digging into the tail fluke. The same whale was recently sighted in Monterey Bay and appears to be making a full recovery.

Sean discussed a second humpback whale disentanglement that recently occurred near Santa Cruz Island, where a disentanglement team assisted by CINMS vessel staff was able to remove all of the spot prawn fishing gear lines that were entangled around the whale. The animal swam away successfully. Paul Amaral, who was on scene for one of the disentanglements, also mentioned that he and his crew disentangled a leatherback sea turtle from kelp a few days later between Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island. Michael Cohen suggested collecting video footage during disentanglement rescues and using it on social media outlets to bring attention to the sanctuary.

Sean Herron shared an update on the voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Pilot Program, and showed whale sightings maps for May and June. Sean described the VSR program, outlining that ships that must have had average speeds over 14 knots, and will have to reduce speeds to 12 knots or less to participate. As of now, there is funding for 16 transits for the pilot program, and there are several shipping lines interested in participating. He also said the VSR partners are seeking additional funding and plan a press release in August when more of the participant details will be finalized. Kristi Birney announced that the majority of the funding so far for the working group has been from the Santa Barbara Foundation, and there is six months to get the additional required funding. Kristi shared that she has applied for several grants and will find out if the working group will receive the funding in early fall. Kristi also said the International Fund for Animal Welfare has been added as a new participant in the working group.

Working Group Reports

Channel Islands Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Enforcement: Bill Struble shared that there has been a significant amount of increase in MPA violations. Bill said there were not a lot of violations in the commercial fishing sector, which has had fairly good compliance. Bill said that he has reached out to prosecutors to get them out to the islands in order to have personal experiences within the sanctuary. Bill noted that NOAA Office of Law Enforcement managers are proposing to close the NOAA Special Agent office in Santa Maria and relocate to Long Beach.

Chumash Community Working Group: no updates.

Research Activities Panel: no updates.

Marketing Subcommittee: no updates.

Sanctuary Education Team: no updates.

Recreational Fishing Working Group: no updates.

Commercial Fishing Working Group: no updates.

Conservation Working Group: Kristi Birney shared that the Santa Barbara Ocean Festival was a success. She said that collaborative funding allowed for activities such as recreational fishing, kayaking, diving, beach clean-ups, and a Condor express trip that allowed many people to get out and enjoy the sanctuary and learn more about Marine Protected Areas. Members of the Chumash community also displayed a traditional tomol canoe and shared traditional stories.

Meeting Close-Out

Dianne Black closed out the meeting, noting that upcoming SAC meetings in 2014 will be held on:

- Friday, September 19 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday, November 21 (Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster (07/18/2014):

Andrea Mills	Tourism	<i>Present</i>
Garrett Kababik	Tourism – Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	<i>Present</i>
Stuart Wilson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Michael Cohen	Business	<i>Present</i>
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Kristi Birney	Conservation	<i>Present</i>
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	<i>Absent</i>
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	<i>Absent</i>
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Amanda Allen	Education	<i>Present</i>
Cliff Rodrigues	Education – Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Mark Steele	Research – Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Phyllis Grifman [Vice-Chair]	Public At Large #1	<i>Present</i>
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Eric Kett	Public At Large #2	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Block	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Luhui Isha Waiya	Chumash Community	<i>Present</i>
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries	<i>Absent</i>
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	<i>Absent</i>
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
CDR Casey Hehr	US Coast Guard	<i>Present</i>
LT CMDR Joseph Giammanco	US Coast Guard – Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt (BOEM)	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM – Alternate	<i>Present</i>
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	<i>Absent</i>
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Craig Shuman	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	<i>Absent</i>
Kai Lampson	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Rich Rozzelle	CA Natural Resources Agency	<i>Present</i>
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	<i>Absent</i>
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dianne Black [Council Chair]	Santa Barbara County	<i>Present</i>
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Gary Hirtensteiner	Ventura County	<i>Absent</i>
<vacant>	Ventura County - Alternate	--
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	<i>Present</i>
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>

Vote on supporting council chair signature on “MPA Call to Action” statement

<i>Name</i>	<i>Council Seat - position</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Garrett Kababik	Tourism - alternate	Yes
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation - member	Yes
Michael Cohen	Business - member	Yes
Kristi Birney	Conservation - member	Yes
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing – member	ABSENT
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing – alternate	
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing – member	ABSENT
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - alternate	
Amanda Allen	Education - member	Yes
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - alternate	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1 - member	Yes
Richard Block	Public At Large #1 - alternate	Yes
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community - member	Yes
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries – member	ABSENT
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries- alternate	
David Ashe	National Park Service - alternate	Yes
CDR Casey Hehr	US Coast Guard - member	Yes
Dr. Ann Bull	Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation & Enforcement - alternate	Yes
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - alternate	Yes
Craig Shuman	California Department of Fish & Wildlife – member	ABSENT
Kai Lampson	California Department of Fish & Wildlife- alternate	
Rich Rozelle	California Natural Resources Agency - member	Yes
Dr. Jonna Engel	California Coastal Commission - member	ABSENT
Steve Hudson	California Coastal Commission - alternate	
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County - member	Yes
Gary Hirtensteiner	Ventura County - member	ABSENT
vacant	Ventura County - alternate	